

SAFETY MESSAGE

Personal Safety is our #1 priority



Driving In Sand, Compiled by USDA-APHIS-CCEP

Sand Driving Techniques

- When stopping on sand, depress the brake and allow the vehicle to coast to a stop. This will minimize any sand build-up in front of the wheels.
- The idea is to float over the sand. The correct combination of engine speed and gearing is essential for successful sand driving.
- It's a good habit to always back up a few feet or so when you stop in soft sand. This compacts the sand and gives you a firmer surface to start on.
- Avoid hard braking as this can dig a vehicle into soft sand and make it hard to get mobile again.
- If for any reason you stop forward or backward motion, stop, as all you are doing, is digging deeper holes for yourself. Try going in the opposite direction first.
- When turning, make the turn as wide as possible to reduce the chance of bogging. Your front wheels act more like a rudder in sand and turning too sharp has a similar effect to applying the brakes.
- **When you become bogged, try these simple techniques:**
 1. Unload the passengers and give the vehicle a push.
 2. Drop the tire pressure.
 3. Do not floor the accelerator if you are bogging down.
 4. Try to reverse on your own tracks.
 5. Dig sand away from around the tires. And provide equal traction to all four tires.
 6. Traction mats can be used such as; pieces of newspaper, cardboard, floor mats or specially made plates. A trick with traction mats is to tie them with a length of rope to the vehicle, so when you are free and can stop on firm ground.
 7. The easiest method is to use the snap strap; the strap requires the use of additional vehicles.